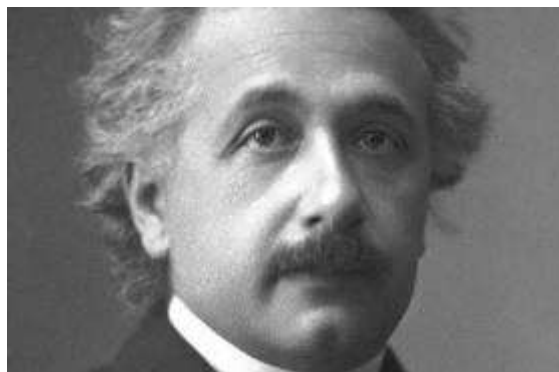
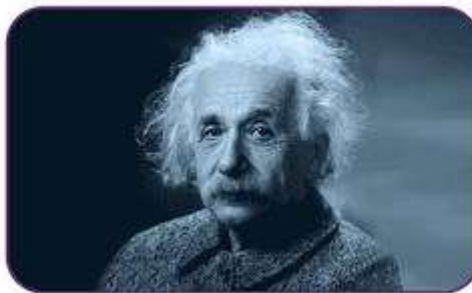


Timeline of Einstein's life

Albert Einstein's life followed a trajectory from a patent clerk in Switzerland to becoming the global icon of modern physics.

Early Years and Education

- **1879:** Born on March 14 in Ulm, Germany.
- **1884:** Receives a compass from his father, which he later cites as the beginning of his fascination with invisible forces.
- **1895–1896:** Attends school in Aarau, Switzerland, after failing his first entrance exam to the Swiss Polytechnic.
- **1896:** Renounces his German citizenship to avoid military service.
- **1900:** Graduates from the Zurich Polytechnic with a teaching diploma.
- **1901:** Officially becomes a Swiss citizen.



The "Miracle Year" and Career Rise

- **1902:** Starts work as a technical expert at the [Swiss Patent Office](#) in Bern.
- **1903:** Marries Mileva Marić.
- **1905:** His "[Annus Mirabilis](#)" (Miracle Year). He publishes four groundbreaking papers on the photoelectric effect, Brownian motion, special relativity, and $E=mc^2$.
- **1909:** Leaves the patent office to become an associate professor at the University of Zurich.

- **1914:** Moves to Berlin to become director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics.

General Relativity and Global Fame

- **1915:** Completes the **General Theory of Relativity**.
- **1919:** A solar eclipse confirms his general relativity predictions, making him an instant worldwide celebrity. He also divorces Mileva and marries his cousin Elsa.
- **1922:** Awarded the **1921 Nobel Prize in Physics** for his discovery of the law of the photoelectric effect.

The Princeton Years

- **1933:** Fleeing Nazi Germany, he settles in the United States to join the [Institute for Advanced Study](#) in Princeton, New Jersey.
- **1939:** Signs a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt warning of potential German atomic bomb research, which prompts the [Manhattan Project](#).
- **1940:** Becomes a **United States citizen** while retaining Swiss citizenship.
- **1952:** Declines an offer to become the [President of Israel](#).
- **1955:** Dies on April 18 in Princeton at the age of 76.

[His politics](#)

During World War I Einstein was a member of the pacifist Bund Neues Vaterland, and signed the “Manifest an die Europäer” (Manifesto to the Europeans) designed by Georg Nicolai.

After World War One, Einstein became increasingly outspoken in his political views. Opposing the mounting racist and jingoist violence and ultranationalism in Germany in the 1920s, he worked for European unity and supported organizations seeking to protect Jews against growing anti-Semitic violence. His egalitarian streak was irrepressible: confronting rising course fees poorer students couldn't afford, Einstein routinely offered free after-hours physics classes. As the European economic and political crises grew more acute, Einstein increasingly used platforms at scientific conferences to address political questions.

From 1930 to 1932, Einstein's second phase of intense political activity, he visited the United States to speak and write about Wilsonian democratic ideals and against U.S. isolationism. This effort ended with his remorse over failure at the 1932 Geneva Disarmament Conference and his acceptance that “militant pacifism” was no match for fascist advances in Europe. Einstein's third intense political surge began five months before A-bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, when he wrote, again, to President Franklin Roosevelt, this time warning about postwar consequences posed by the new weapons. Einstein shared with many the hope for a world government movement, first embodied in the new United Nations.

This faith in global cooperation shaped his activism after 1945, when he worked with Bertrand Russell and others to warn about nuclear weapons. The Russell–Einstein Manifesto, published shortly before his death in 1955, urged leaders to “remember your humanity and forget the rest.”

His involvement with Chaim Weizmann

Albert Einstein and [Chaim Weizmann](#), the chemist and Zionist leader who became Israel's first president, shared a complex partnership rooted in their mutual commitment to Jewish education and a national home in Palestine.

The Hebrew University Project

- **1921 Fundraising Tour:** At Weizmann's request, Einstein joined a high-profile [Zionist delegation to the United States](#) to raise funds for the planned [Hebrew University of Jerusalem](#). Einstein's celebrity status was instrumental in the mission's success, which raised approximately \$700,000.
- **1923 Inaugural Lecture:** Following their joint efforts, Einstein visited British Mandate Palestine and delivered the [first scientific lecture](#) at the future site of the university on Mt. Scopus, famously beginning his address in Hebrew.
- **1925 Founding:** Both are considered [co-founders of the university](#), which officially opened in 1925. Einstein later bequeathed his [entire personal archive](#) and literary rights to the institution.

Differing Visions of Zionism

While they collaborated closely, their political philosophies often clashed:

- **Cultural vs. Political Zionism:** Weizmann focused on the political and diplomatic establishment of a Jewish state. Einstein was more of a [cultural Zionist](#), advocating for a "national home" that prioritized intellectual renewal and Jewish-Arab cooperation over a militarized nation-state.
- **The "Unwitting Pawn":** Historical accounts sometimes describe Einstein as an ["unwitting pawn"](#) during the 1921 tour, as Weizmann used Einstein's popularity to sideline American Zionist rival Louis Brandeis during a leadership schism.

The Presidency Offer (1952)

- **Succession:** Upon Weizmann's death in November 1952, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion [offered Einstein the presidency](#) of Israel to succeed him.
- **Refusal:** Einstein [declined the offer](#), stating he lacked the "natural aptitude and experience" to deal with people and official functions.

**** End of Page**